

Message Text

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51/12

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 DPW-01 EUR-10

IO-03 PRS-01 USIE-00 RSR-01 SS-14 ADP-00 /070 W

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O 150247 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3192

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10738

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MARR, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 13, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM CAN THO JUNE 13
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE CAN THO 0436

SUMMARY: THE FIGHTING EBBED IN DINH TUONG BUT REMAINED
FIERCE IN CHUONG THIEN. A TERRORIST MINE NEAR CA MAU
KILLED AND WOUNDED MANY CIVILIANS. A RVNAF AIRMOBILE FORCE
MADE A QUICK RAID INTO CAMBODIA. THE IDLE SOC TRANG
SUBREGIONAL ICCS TEAM HAS NOT RECEIVED A GVN INVESTIGATION
REQUEST FOR A MONTH. END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) MR IV CLAIMED 67 VC/ NVA
" CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS" MAY 12, UP SOMEWHAT FROM THE
PREVIOUS DAY' S 46. AMONG THESE WERE 10 GROUND ASSAULTS,
44 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 11 HARASSMENTS, AND TWO TERRORIST ACTS.
FIGHTING CONTINUED TO DIMINISH IN DINH TUONG, BUT CHUONG
THIEN WAS PUNISHED WITH SIX GROUND ASSAULTS AND 22 ABF' S.
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RVNAF REPORTEDLY SUFFERED 30 KILLED, 113 WOUNDED, AND SEVEN MISSING, WHILE CLAIMING 78 VC/NVA DEAD AND FOUR CAPTURED. CIVILIAN CASUALTIES WERE HEAVY. ONE HAMLET CHIEF AND EIGHT OTHER CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND 40 WOUNDED.

(B) A TERRORIST MINE JUNE 12 WREAKED CARNAGE AMONG A LARGELY CIVILIAN CROWD IN TAC THU HAMLET, FIVE KILOMETERS WEST OF CA MAU CITY. FIVE PF AND 14 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED, AND SIX PF AND 36 CIVILIANS INJURED, MAY CRITICALLY. THE CROWD HAD GATHERED IN THE EVENING AT AN OPEN AIR THEATRE TO WATCH A CLASSICAL PLAY.

(C) A RVNAF AIRMOBILE OPERATION IN CAMBODIA JUNE 12 KILLED 12 VC/NVA AND CAPTURED FIVE INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. HELICOPTERS OF THE 227 TH AVIATION BATTALION, BASED IN SOC TRANG, INSERTED AN RF COMPANY INTO A SITE ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS FROM THE BORDER OF AN PHU DISTRICT, CHAU DOC. THREE VC LOCAL FORCE COMPANIES ARE POSITIONED JUST ON THE CAMBODIAN SIDE OF THE FRONTIER. YESTERDAY'S OPERATION WAS THE THIRD SUCCESSFUL QUICK AIRMOBILE STRIKE INTO CAMBODIA SINCE THE CEASEFIRE.

(D) COMBAT IN DINH TUONG CONTINUED TO DIMINISH FROM LAST WEEK'S HIGHPOINT. VC/NVA- INITIATED MILITARY ACTIVITY IS AT ITS LOWEST IN SEVERAL WEEKS. THE GVN REPORTED ONLY 10 VC/NVA CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS MAY 12, MOSTLY ISOLATED MORTARINGS, COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS DAY'S 16. FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE DAY, NO OPPOSITION CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED.

2. ICCS: (A) THE KHANH HUNG (SOC TRANG) SUBREGIONAL ICCS TEAM RECENTLY ACHIEVED A RARE UNANIMITY. A LETTER SIGNED BY ALL FOUR DELEGATIONS WENT UP TO SAIGON PROTESTING THE POOR AND EXPENSIVE PA&E CATERING SERVICE. PA&E QUICKLY REACTED BY IMPROVING ITS FARE.

(B) A CANADIAN DELEGATE TO THE KHANH HUNG (SOC TRANG) ICCS SUBREGIONAL TEAM TOLD AN AMERICAN VICE CONSUL THAT THE GVN/JMC LAST REQUESTED AN INVESTIGATION MAY 14. AT THAT TIME, WITH THE USUAL LACK OF UNANIMITY, THE ICCS TEAM INVESTIGATED THE VC MINING OF A CIVILIAN VEHICLE. THE CANADIAN BELIEVES THAT THE ONE MONTH INTERLUDE ILLUSTRATES THE DECLINING GVN INTEREST IN THE ICCS AS A USEFUL PEACEKEEPING OR PROPAGANDA INSTRUMENT. SIGNED BARNES UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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